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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Patent Application of  
AKANO

Serial No. 09/997,001 ✓

Filed: November 30, 2001

Atty. Ref.: 914-146

Group:

Examiner:

For: CONTENT PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION AND RETURNING  
SYSTEM, MANAGEMENT APPARATUS, RENTAL TERMINAL,  
RETURNING TERMINAL AND CONTENT PROGRAMS RENTAL  
METHOD

\* \* \* \* \*

December 31, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. One copy of each of these references is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The references were cited in the attached Japanese Office Action regarding a foreign counterpart application. A translation of the Japanese Office Action citing the references is attached.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

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TAKANO  
Serial No. 09/997,001

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made [37 C.F.R. '1.97(g)], an admission that the information cited is prior art, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner [Commissioner's Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 12-25 at 25].

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:



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## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

**ATTY. DOCKET NO.**

SERIAL NO.

914-146

09/997,001

TAKANO

**FILING DATE**

## GROUP

November 30,2001

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

**RECEIVED**

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## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent pages, etc.)**

	Sasada Katsuhiko, "Keitai tanmatsu de ongaku ga kikeru haisin service aitsugi kaisi" (Distribution Service Starts One After Another that Enables Music Listening on Mobile Phone), Nikkei Business No. 58, Nikkei Business Publications, Inc. April 15, 2000, Nikkei NetBusiness May 2000, pp. 28-29, 8-10, and SAS Enterprise Miner Software advertisement, May 2000.
	Takagawa Yuichiro, "Ongaku haisin wa mobile multimedia no killer contents ni naru" (Music Distribution Now Provides "Killer" Contents of Mobile Multimedia), Mobile Press Vol. 24, Gijutsu-Hyohron Co., Ltd. July 1, 2000, pp. 87-92.

\*Examiner

### Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.